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PRUSSIAN SCHOOLS THROUGH AMERICAN EYES. BY JAMES RUSSELL PARSONS, JR. Pp. 110. Syracuse, N. Y. : C. W. Bardeen, 1891.

This book is a report to the New York State Department of Public Instruction on the organization, classification and work accomplished in Prussian elementary schools. Its author, Mr. Parsons, having served as United States Consul at Aix la Chapelle has been in a position to gather accurate information on the subject. "The reader follows the would-be elementary school teacher through the elementary school, the school preparatory to the normal, the normal school and the final examinations. An attempt is made to state clearly and concisely the minimum of work required of each Prussian child and the provisions by which the accomplishment of this work is secured." The book is just what it claims to be, and for that reason helps to fill a want long felt by American teachers interested in European school systems. Its perusal cannot fail to be suggestive because of the many differences that become apparent between Prussian and American schools. The report itself does not undertake such a comparison, except incidentally, but it necessarily takes place in the mind of anyone thoroughly acquainted with our public school system. That the Prussian schools are superior to our own in many important respects is clear. The fact that the ungraded schools of Prussia compare very favorably with the graded schools is worthy of notice. The effect of the compulsory school law is encouraging to us. The different course of study for the common schools, the more professional character of the normal schools and the longer tenure of office on the part of teachers, are all subjects of interest and practical value to us.

It is to be regretted that the method of instruction is not more fully touched upon. That, however, ought hardly to be attributed to the book as a defect, as it is not a principal aim of the author to discuss the subject of method.

The book on the whole is certainly a valuable contribution to our literature on education.

F. M. McMURRY.

Normal, III.